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Claims 1 – 21 are active and pending, all of which stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Jones (US 5,479,653).

Applicants urge that Jones does not identically disclose the features recited in claim 1. In particular, Jones does not disclose determining which enclosure a storage device is associated with. Jones refers to logical RAID configurations but is silent regarding enclosures.

Also, Jones does not select a distribution order for the storage devices based on fault tolerance analysis. In Jones, when a device fails, the RAID is reconfigured to use the remaining drives. This is not identical to selecting how drives are distributed to maximize fault tolerance.

Claims 1, 5, 16, 20 and 21 include similar language that recites the above two features. Because Jones does not identically disclose these features, Jones does not anticipate the claims as meant under 35 U.S.C. §102. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 of claims 1 – 21 are respectfully requested.

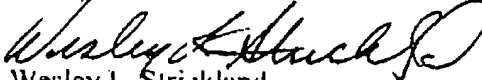
In view of the above remarks, Applicants believe all claims are in condition for allowance, and passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 502624 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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